METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
POLICE DEPARTMENT

CIRCULAR ORDER # 24-28

DATE ISSUED	DATE EFFECTIVE	REVISION #	PAGE
03/13/24	Immediately	01	1 OF 2

TO: **ALL MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT**

SUBJECT: **RANDOM BAG CHECKS IN NYC SUBWAYS**

Department Manual #15-07 outlines procedures for conducting random bag checks by MTA Police Officers in the New York City (NYC) subways. These checks aim to enhance security measures without exhibiting bias or discrimination against any individual or group.

Policy Statement:

- MTA Police Officers may conduct random bag checks within the NYC subway system as part of ongoing security measures.
- Random bag checks must be conducted in a fair, unbiased, and non-discriminatory manner, adhering to the principles of equal treatment and protection of individual rights.
- Officers must exercise professionalism, courtesy, and respect during all interactions with subway passengers and conducting random bag checks in a manner that upholds fairness, impartiality, and respect for civil liberties.
- Bag checks should be conducted based solely on random selection criteria, without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, or any other protected characteristic.
- Officers must refrain from engaging in any form of profiling or stereotyping when selecting individuals for bag checks.
- The purpose of random bag checks is to detect and deter potential threats to subway safety and security, not to target specific individuals or groups.
- Any evidence obtained during a bag check should be handled in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, ensuring the preservation of individual rights and privacy.

- Officers will inform selected individuals of the purpose of the bag check and request their cooperation.
- Individuals selected for bag checks have the right to refuse the bag check; however, they will be denied entry into the subway system.
- If an individual refuses the bag check, officers will inform them of the consequences of refusal and deny them access to the subway system.
- Individuals who refuse bag checks will be provided with information on alternative transportation options and any applicable recourse for addressing their concerns.
- Officers will conduct bag checks efficiently and with minimal disruption to subway operations and passenger flow.
- If no prohibited items are found during the bag check, the individual will be thanked for their cooperation, and the interaction will be concluded respectfully.
- If prohibited items are discovered during the bag check, officers will follow established protocols for handling the situation, which may include further investigation, confiscation of the item, and appropriate enforcement action.

Compliance and Oversight:

- Compliance with this policy will be monitored and enforced by MTA Police supervisors and internal oversight mechanisms.
- Any concerns or complaints regarding the conduct of random bag checks should be reported through established channels for review and resolution.
- Supervisors will ensure that Officers are positioned strategically during bag checks as per the ‘Security Inspection Floor Plan’.

Training and Education:

- MTA Police Officers must familiarize themselves with the content of this policy and will receive ongoing training on the principles and procedures outlined in this policy during in-service training.
- Training will emphasize the importance of conducting bag checks in a fair, unbiased, and respectful manner, with a focus on preserving individual rights and preventing discrimination.

This policy will be periodically reviewed and revised as necessary to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and best practices.

Attachment: Security Inspection Floor Plan (1 Page).

Authority:

DC Raymond Reichel for

John J. Mueller
Chief of Police

JJM/tt
C/O # 24-28 Rev 01

Security Inspection Floor Plan

Keeping our subways safe
Protecting New Yorkers

1. The purpose of random bag checks is to detect and deter potential threats to subway safety and security, not to target specific individuals or groups.

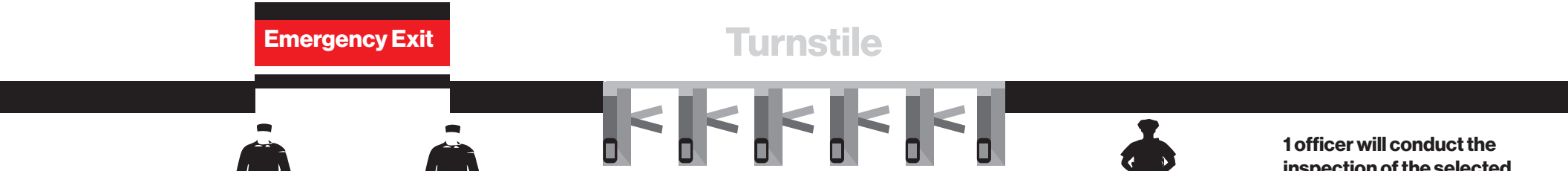
2. Random selection must be conducted in a fair, unbiased and non-discriminatory manner, adhering to the principles of equal treatment and protection of individual rights.

3. Any evidence obtained during a bag check should be handled in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, ensuring the preservation of individual rights and privacy.

4. Individuals selected for bag checks have the right to refuse the bag check; however, they will be denied entry into the subway system.

* Random selection must be conducted to ensure that passengers are not required to wait on line for inspection.

1 officer should be standing on the paid side of the turnstile to prevent fare evasion.



2 National Guard personnel should be stationed in front of the emergency exit gates to ensure proper use of the exit gates.

Additional National Guard personnel should be located at a separate fare array exit gate.

If State Police are present, they can act as the selection officer or fare evasion officer.

1 officer will conduct the inspection of the selected passenger's bag.

The supervisor should be strategically located where they can monitor the detail.

1 officer will randomly select passengers for security inspection based on the algorithm established by the supervisor.